



ARIJ Daily Report

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Israeli Violations' Activities in the oPt 26 May 2014

The daily report highlights the violations behind Israeli home demolitions and demolition threats in the occupied Palestinian territory, the confiscation and razing of lands, the uprooting and destruction of fruit trees, the expansion of settlements and erection of outposts, the brutality of the Israeli Occupation Army, the Israeli settlers violence against Palestinian civilians and properties, the erection of checkpoints, the construction of the Israeli segregation wall and the issuance of military orders for the various Israeli purposes.

The Violations are based on reports provided by field workers and/or news sources.

The text is not quoted directly from the sources but is edited for clarity.

The daily report does not necessarily reflect ARIJ's opinion.

Brutality of the Israeli Occupation Army

- Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) invaded and toured in several neighborhood in Idhna town, west of Hebron city. During the operation, the IOA erected a military checkpoint at the entrance of the town. (RB2000 26 May 2014)

Israeli Settler Violence

- Israeli settlers escorted by the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) raided Joseph Tomb at the eastern part of Nablus city, and performed Talmudic rituals. Clashes erupted between Palestinians and the IOA, where the IOA fired teargas and stun grenades, causing dozens of suffocation cases. (Al-Quds 26 May 2014)
- Israeli settlers living in Sde Boaz outpost lets go a number of sheep at an agricultural land planted with grapes in Ash-Sha'af area, west of Al-Khader village, west of Bethlehem city. As a result, more than 120 trees were destroyed. (RB2000 26 May 2014)
- Adel Saleh Irfa'I was injured after a group of Israeli settlers assaulted him in Jerusalem city. (Raya 26 May 2014)

Expansion of settlements

- The shadow of the Pope's visit: approved 50 homes beyond the Green Line. Walla! News has learned that the Local Planning and Construction approved the construction of dozens of housing units in Har Homa controversial, while the Holy See touring the capital. "Torpedoing negotiations with the Palestinians". First publication: The Local Planning and Building in Jerusalem approved (two) the establishment of five new residential buildings Samuel Wall Street in Har Homa in East Jerusalem. Each of the five buildings approved will be five or six stories, and looking to contain ten units. Overall, this 50 new apartments. Building permit can be particularly sensitive timing, while Pope Francis is on an official visit in the capital. The first building, which will include five floors, as built area of 1,537 square meters. The second building with six floors will be built on a total area of 1,425 square meters. The third building, six-story, will be built on a total area of 1,372 square meters while the fourth and fifth structure included six floors each with an area of 1,275 square meters. Har Homa is considered a controversial area. This is because unlike other Jewish neighborhoods in East Jerusalem, including Gilo and Pisgat Ze'ev probably remain in Israeli hands under any future agreement; there is a debate on the future of the place. In the past, the construction in this neighborhood off to a tough condemnation by the U.S. government and the European Community. "Continued construction at Har Homa is expressed agreement with the municipal government end the possibility of reaching an agreement with the Palestinians," said a member of the local committee Meretz, Pepe Alalo. "The city continued for calls to build the Green Line and is now starting to run wild and undermine the prospects of dialogue. (Wallah News 26 May 2014)

Other

- MKs to submit bill seeking annexation of West Bank settlements. Likud, Jewish Home lawmakers say legislation natural answer to Netanyahu's talk of 'unilateral steps'. MKs Yariv Levin (Likud) and Orit Strock (Jewish Home) are expected to submit a series of bills on Monday seeking government annexation of Jewish sites and Jewish settlement blocs in the West Bank. The areas in question include Gush Etzion, Ariel, the Jordan Valley, Hebron, the South Hebron Hills and Ma'aleh Adumim, according to reports. Strock and Levin explained that annexation was the natural answer to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's talk of "unilateral steps" during his interview last week with Bloomberg in which he intimated that Israel may have to take unilateral action as an alternative to negotiations. Netanyahu acknowledged during the interview that the idea of a unilateral withdrawal from the area was gaining traction across the political spectrum, but warned that Israel could not risk another Gaza, which was taken over by Hamas after Israeli unilaterally disengaged. "Many Israelis are asking themselves if there are certain unilateral steps that could theoretically make sense. But people also recognize that the unilateral withdrawal from Gaza didn't improve the situation or advance peace," he said. Later Friday, Bennett said that he supported Netanyahu's talk of Israeli unilateral action in the West Bank. While it was not clear whether the prime minister meant annexing mainly Jewish-settled territory or withdrawing from mainly Palestinian areas, the Jewish Home chief made plain he was backing annexation: "I hear talk of 'Israel's unilateral actions'— I support that," he wrote. "We are pushing for applying Israeli law unilaterally over Gush Etzion, Ariel, the Jordan Valley, Ma'aleh Adumim, Ofra, Alfe Menashe, the Ben Gurion Airport envelope, Samaria, Judea, and the rest of the Jewish settlement enterprise," Bennett added. "It is time to do what is best for Israel." The idea was slammed Saturday by opposition leader and Labor Party chairman Isaac Herzog and Justice Minister Tzipi Livni. Calls by right-wing leaders to unilaterally annex parts of the West Bank are both dangerous and delusional, Herzog said Saturday, adding that the only viable solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict was to prelaunch negotiations and finally determine Israel's permanent borders. "The extreme right is exploiting the leadership vacuum that [Prime Minister Benjamin] Netanyahu has created, and is now throwing into the ring dangerous ideas about annexing the [West Bank] territories," Herzog said, according to Israel Radio. "The only solution is a political process under which settlement blocs would remain in Israeli hands, and to determine the country's permanent

borders.” The Labor Party chairman went on to criticize Bennett for his remarks. “If Bennett thinks this is the solution to the political entanglement the government created, [he] is delusional and detached from reality,” Herzog said. Justice Minister Tzipi Livni also slammed the idea, and said there would be no unilateral annexation so long as she was in the coalition. The initiative to introduce legislation aimed at annexing West Bank territories has started to gain momentum since US-brokered peace talks between Israel and the Palestinians collapsed late last month. On Thursday, Transportation Minister Yisrael Katz announced he would present a bill to redraw the lines of the Jerusalem municipality to include a number of West Bank settlements in a single “Greater Jerusalem” polity. The settlements to be amalgamated into Jerusalem under the bill include the city of Ma’ale Adumim, Givat Ze’ev, the Gush Etzion bloc, and Beitar Illit, containing in total a population of over 150,000 Israelis. Earlier that day, Communications Minister Gilad Erdan (Likud) called on the Israeli government “to start preparing” for the annexation of territories designated Area C by the Oslo Accords. The most recent UN estimate, in March, put the figure for all of Area C at nearly 300,000 Palestinians, including 74,000 in East Jerusalem and 67,000 in the Hebron area. ([Time of Israel](#) 26 May 2014)

- Israel's top general in West Bank warns: Power blackouts will lead to violence. Israel Electric Corporation threatening to cut power twice a day to different parts of the West Bank, over \$458 million debt. The Coordinator of Government Activities in the Territories, Maj. Gen. Yoav Mordechai, recently sent a letter to National Security Adviser Yossi Cohen warning against the Israel Electric Corporation’s plan to start instituting power cuts in the West Bank and East Jerusalem because of enormous debts it’s owed by the Palestinian Authority. In a letter sent on May 15 to Cohen, senior IEC executives, the Foreign Ministry and the defense minister, Mordechai said the question of supplying electricity to the Palestinians is not just a commercial issue for the IEC, but a strategic and diplomatic one for Israel. Mordechai claimed that limiting power supplies to the Palestinians would be viewed as a sanction by Israel against the civilian population, and this must be prevented. The Palestinians owe the corporation about 1.6 billion shekels (\$458 million) for electricity supplied but never paid for. The IEC filed a 531 million shekel lawsuit earlier this month against the Jerusalem District Electric Company (JDECO) – the Arab-owned electric company that provides power to Palestinians in the West Bank and East Jerusalem – for not paying its debts. Now the IEC is threatening to start cutting the power twice a day to different parts of the West Bank, for an hour each time. The IEC says it will provide

solutions, such as generators, for the Jewish settlements in the areas to be hit by the power cuts – as well as in the case of Palestinian attacks on the electricity infrastructure. Mordechai warned that power cuts could expose Israel to legal claims of collective punishment, and cause diplomatic damage and lead to international pressure. But, most of all, it could lead to further feelings of bitterness and frustration, which could also lead to attacks against the electricity infrastructure – or even to an outbreak of violence. “The situation of a shortage of electricity could lead to instability and the pointing of an accusatory finger at the Palestinian Authority,” wrote Mordechai. “In a more extreme scenario, this situation could bring the accusation against Israel, to undermine the stability of the security [situation], to damage the channels of coordination and communication, and create difficulties on the part of the Palestinian security services to contain events.” Cohen will hold a meeting on the matter today. He has invited senior IEC executives, along with representatives of COGAT, the Energy and Water Resources Ministry, and others. Cohen supports Mordechai’s position and even made clear in informal meetings over the past week that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu also opposes the IEC’s proposal, said a senior government official. “Blackouts are not one of our cards,” the official quoted Cohen as saying. Both the Energy Ministry and the IEC wrote to those involved almost two weeks ago, warning of their intentions to initiate the planned blackouts. The IEC said it would cut power supplied to JDECO by half for an hour at a time, twice daily, at 1 P.M. and 7 P.M. The IEC has warned previously that it might file suit to collect its unpaid debts, though for now the company has decided to sue only the JDECO, and only for some of the debt. A month ago, progress was seemingly being made on the matter, and Netanyahu’s representative to the peace talks, Isaac Molho, was in charge of finding a compromise. However, the end of the negotiations seems to have also led to the end of talks over the debt payment. Six months ago, Palestinian Finance Minister Shukri Bishara presented Israel with an offer that would have written off half of the debt and spread payment for the rest over 20 years. The offer was rejected out of hand by the Israelis. Sources say Israel agreed to the extended term of payments, but not to the write-off. The debt is growing at an estimated 90 million shekels a month, because the Palestinians have not collected the full amount they are owed by customers for years. ([Haaretz](#) 26 May 2014)